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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 1 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a message from Mr. Venancio de Moura, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, dated 5 September 1996, with the request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alfonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Message dated 5 September 1996 from the Minister of External Relations of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Aware of the interest that you and the international community have in seeing peace restored to Angola, where the United Nations has the largest contingent of peacekeeping forces, on which it spends over one million dollars a day, I undertook to provide you with the following information about the latest developments and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, which is once again at a critical juncture owing to the lack of political will and perhaps bad faith of the leadership of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA).

In fact, UNITA puts the following conditions on the conclusion of the resolution of the critical issues set forth in the Lusaka Protocol:

(a) Military issues. The return of UNITA Generals to the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) in the number agreed upon; the quartering and selection of genuine UNITA military force members to be incorporated into the Angolan single Armed Forces; and the withdrawal of troops from UNITA-occupied areas, in order to allow the reinstatement of the State administration in the whole country;

(b) Political issues. The return of the UNITA members of Parliament who left in 1992; the designation of individuals with the necessary background to be part of the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation; and the special status or accommodation of the UNITA leader.

As you are aware, the Angolan Head of State had invited the UNITA leader in writing, over six months ago (on 1 March 1996), to fill one of the positions as Vice-President of the Republic. Therefore, there were high expectations, when the UNITA Congress was held on 28 August 1996 that UNITA would provide the answers to all the pending political and military issues and would create the conditions for the fifth meeting between the President of the Republic and the UNITA leader, inside Angolan territory. The resolutions of the recent UNITA Congress and the statements made by the UNITA leader himself, who rejected publicly the position of Vice-President of the Republic unexpectedly, further increased the mistrust and doubts about the real intentions of the UNITA leadership and the UNITA leader, who seems to be more interested in delaying the conclusion of the implementation of the Lusaka Accords and buying more time, while the economic and social situation of the country deteriorates, in order to cause disorder and instability within the country. And that would have all kinds of consequences, including discouraging foreign investors who might want to participate in the Angolan National Reconstruction Plan on a mutually advantageous basis, as well as hindering the efforts of the Government towards the implementation of programmes intended to promote the well-being of the different communities and of all those who live in our country and bet on its future development.

The Angolan Government reiterates its firm political willingness to solve, through dialogue, the problems of reconciliation of all Angolans, in order to maintain stability and unity within the country, based on respect for differences and for the democratic law instituted in our country since 1992.

The Angolan Government has responsibilities towards the Angolan people and towards the community of independent and sovereign States. It recognizes that this community has contributed with considerable financial and human efforts, beyond what was provided for initially, to create the conditions for the re-establishment of peace. However, those efforts have been stalled because of non-compliance on the part of UNITA, which dares attack with impunity members of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III) and its aircraft. As you are aware, the UNAVEM III mission is due to end on 9 February 1997, pursuant to a Security Council resolution, by which the Council approved the deployment of a contingent of more than 7,000 Blue Helmets from over 50 countries in the world.

Now that the maximum offer (Vice-President of the Republic) made by the Government to the UNITA leader has been refused, all we have to do is to continue to implement the Lusaka Protocol, the validity of which was, by the way, reconfirmed by UNITA at its Third Extraordinary Congress. Thus, considering the responsibilities that the Security Council has in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, the Angolan Government deems that the time has come for effective measures to be applied to put an end to the manoeuvring and ambiguous actions of the UNITA leader, who seems to have a secret agenda for Angola.

The ambiguities contained in the statements by the UNITA leader, and the fact that he disappointed even those who believed in him, suggest that Mr. Savimbi is just waiting for the opportunity to reject formally his participation in the democratic game, and once again incite people to violence and insubordination to then rule over an unruly country.

Thus, it is imperative that the Security Council do the following: cut the UNITA support mechanisms; apply those sanctions imposed by and approved in its own resolutions; freeze all UNITA bank accounts; order the closing of all UNITA offices in all United Nations Member States, wherever they may exist; prohibit the issuance of passports and visas by States Members of the United Nations; and prevent UNITA leaders from staying and travelling in the territory of States Members of the United Nations, as UNITA does in Angola when it prevents the free movement of people and goods in the areas under its control, where the other opposition parties, the Government and even UNAVEM III peacekeeping forces and the personnel of non-governmental organizations cannot travel readily. Furthermore, the Security Council must be firm in its warnings, as well as in the application of sanctions against those States Members of the United Nations which are neighbours of Angola and which grant landing and other facilities to aircraft carrying and introducing weapons and various logistic military equipment in Angola for UNITA; and cut UNITA's communications with the world. Finally, trips by officers from States Members of the United Nations to Bailundo or Andulo (except for those directly involved in the peace process) should be limited in order to avoid giving the impression of the existence of two capital

cities in Angola, not to mention to avoid facilitating and encouraging one of Mr. Savimbi's claims: the split of the country into north and south.

Only by taking a firm stand and exercising effective pressure can UNITA and its leader be forced to abide by the decisions of the Security Council and honour the commitments that it (UNITA) made on its own before the Angolan people and the international community.

The Angolan Government shall remain flexible and patient; however, it will take a firm position when it comes to keeping order and safeguarding the integrity of its national territory. It will make efforts to maintain a serious political dialogue in order to conclude, within the appropriate schedule, the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, and thus be able to lead Angola into a situation of stability and harmony, and use all of its financial and human resources for the social and economic development of the country. Therefore, only by complying with the rule of law, with democratic principles and with the laws approved by democratically elected institutions, can we have a peaceful Angola where everyone can live in peace.

I am convinced that you, in particular, and your Government in general, will continue to support the efforts of this legitimate, democratically elected Government. I would like, therefore, to ask you personally to use your power of persuasion to facilitate the successful conclusion, before the end of the year, of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

Venancio de MOURA
Minister for External Relations